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REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 10-20 are pending and rejected in the above-identified application. With this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 11 and 15 were amended. Applicant maintains that no new matter has been added with this amendment.

Objection to Drawings

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d), enclosed is a copy of Figures 1, 2, 3, and 15 with red ink markings showing proposed changes thereto for which approval of the Examiner is requested. The proposed changes add the legend --Prior Art-- instead of "conventional needle." The proposed changes are to correct the drawing and do not constitute new matter.

Rejections to the Claims

Claims 1-7 and 10-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Doyle et al.* Claims 1-7 and 10-20 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Henderson*. Claims 1-7 and 10-20 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Vermed*.

Applicant would first like to thank Examiner Mathew DeSanto for his helpful and courteous discussion held with Applicant's representative on November 12, 2003. During the interview, possible amendments to the claims were discussed.

Applicant also respectfully traverses the rejections to the claims. Independent claims 1, 7, 11, and 15, as amended, require that the internal beveled surface is beveled from an outer surface towards an interior surface "in a direction towards the bore and away from the piercing tip" and that at least a portion of the internal beveled surface is located in a rear half region of the angled end. None of the cited references disclose a needle having these limitations. For example,

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Doyle and *Vermed* each disclose a surface that is beveled from an outer surface towards an inner surface in a direction towards the piercing tip. Similarly, *Henderson* also discloses a beveled surface, where some of the beveled surface is beveled towards the piercing tip. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 7, 11 and 15, as well as dependent claims 2-6, 12-14, and 16-20, are now allowable over the prior art. Withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is in condition for allowance. Early notification to such effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any remaining issue, Applicant kindly requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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